

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In this Amendment claim 20 is amended, claims 47-56 are added, and no claims are canceled (claims 2 and 12 were previously canceled). As a result, claims 1, 3-11, 13-56 are now pending in the application.

In the Office Action of June 2, 2006, claim 20 is objected to due to an error in the dependency. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-14, 17-26 and 29-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 (Klosterman) in view of U.S. Patent 5,883,621 (Iwamura). Claims 15-16 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the Klosterman patent and further in view of the Iwamura patent and yet further in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,372 (Tsumori).

§103(a) rejections in view of Klosterman / Iwamura / Tsumori

The §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3-11, 13-14, 17-26 and 29-44 in view of the Klosterman / Iwamura hypothetical combination and the §103(a) rejection of claims 15-16 and 27-28 in view of Klosterman / Iwamura / Tsumori are each respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Various embodiments of the present invention involve an information handling system for utilizing an electronic program guide to control tuning sources (e.g., television, VCR, DVD or the like) disposed at remote locations from the location where a tuning device (first device) is directly connected to an information handling system. The information handling system also comprises a home network device registry applications programming interface, and a device

registry of network devices which is database providing information of devices and configuration of devices coupled to a network. The device registry aids in identifying devices coupled to the network, and determining which of the devices are tuning sources. The device registry is discussed in various portions of the specification, for example, at the last paragraph of page 7. The device registry is useful for indicating whether a device (e.g., a VCR) is being used as a source. An example of a VCR being used as a source is provided in the specification:

A television 230 and second VCR 232 coupled to television 230 may be disposed at a second location 212 remote from first location 210. VCR 232 may be coupled to a second cable system 236 for receiving a cable television programming signal, and to a radio-frequency (RF) antenna 234 for receiving a television programming signal from an airwave broadcast television station 238. In such a configuration, VCR 232 may operate as a tuning device for tuning signals received from cable television provider 236 or airwave broadcast television station 238.¹

The Office Action acknowledges that Klosterman does not teach or suggest a device registry, as claimed, but then contends that the Iwamura patent overcomes this deficiency. This contention is respectfully traversed.

The Iwamura patent involves a device controller for generating a topology map of a system which lists all of the components of the system. In the Iwamura system, when the system is started up or whenever a new node joins the system, an initialization routine is performed. This process of Iwamura is described at col. 4, line 55 to col. 5, line 32 in conjunction with Figure 3. Part of this process involves the self-identification of each node, described in the Iwamura patent as follows:

In step 406, to give each node an opportunity to select unique physical identification and identify itself to any management identity attached to the bus, the self identification phase is performed. This phase allows low level power

¹ Specification, first paragraph on page 7.

management and the building of the system topology map. This process is also well known in the art. During the self identification process, all nodes identify themselves to all other nodes. An exemplary self identification packet format is illustrated in FIG. 4.

The self identification packet information is gathered into a table 500, an example of which is shown in Figure 5 of the Iwamura patent. During the initialization a unique device name is automatically associated to each node by the DSS IRD 100 (digital satellite system integrated receiver decoder). The Iwamura patent is concerned with the topology map of the system, not with gather information about which devices are sources. The device name does not indicate whether or not the device is a source. Instead, the Iwamura system labels the port(s) of each node as either an unconnected node, a child or a parent, in accordance 1394 parlance.² The child/parent label has to do with how many branches are connected to the node, not with whether or not the node is a source. Therefore, the Iwamura patent does not disclose or suggest “determining which of the devices are tuning sources based on information from a device registry of the network,” as recited in claim 1, or the similar features recited in other claims of the application. The third cited patent to Tsumori does not overcome the deficiencies of Klosterman and Iwamura.

Accordingly, the Klosterman patent, the Iwamura patent and the Tsumori patent, either taken singly or as a hypothetical combination, do not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention.

² Iwamura, col. 5, lines 1-5.


Deposit Account Authorization / Provisional Time Extension Petition

The two-month petition for extension of time filed with this paper is believed to be sufficient. However, to the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0439 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. However, in the event there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's representative, Scott Richardson, by telephone at (571)748-4765 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Charles Richardson
Registration No. 43,436

McGrath, Geissler, Olds & Richardson, PLLC
P.O. Box 7085
Alexandria, VA 22307

Date: November 2, 2006